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S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 003078

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/21/2018
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [PK](#)
SUBJECT: ISLAMABAD EAC MEETING

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 3076 B. ISLAMABAD 3074 C. ISLAMABAD
3075

Classified By: Classified by DCM Jerry Feierstein for
reasons 1.4 (b),(d)

¶1. (SBU) Ambassador chaired an EAC. All sections/agencies were represented. RSO provided a summary of the VBIED attack. According to latest information, it appears at approximately 2000 hrs., an altercation between the Marriott hotel security staff and an unknown number of people in a sedan broke out at the perimeter screening area when the guards barred entry of the vehicle. There were reports of shots fired. The first vehicle then detonated followed moments later by a second vehicle detonation at the main perimeter screening area. MOI is reporting 1200 kg of explosives were used in the second vehicle SVBIED.

¶2. (S/NF) Embassy immediately enacted emergency recall system and quickly identified missing personnel. As has been reported, Embassy suffered one killed and two TDY personnel are still missing. There are preliminary reports (unconfirmed) that the body of one of the missing staff may have been recovered from the hotel. We are awaiting word from Pakistani officials to make positive ID of the remains. Ambassador advised she has passed the names of the missing employees to the MOI to assist the GOP in searching for them at the Marriott rescue site. Embassy RMO reported that the body of the deceased U.S. military member has been airlifted to Bagram AB as of 0730. He reported that one additional ODRP member was medivac'd on the flight to receive follow-on attention. His condition is stable. A second employee, from RAO, will also be medevac'd to Bagram via military airlift. The only other Embassy employee held overnight was discharged from Shifa Hospital Sunday morning. There are no USG personnel receiving care at any hospital; CONS is not aware of any American citizens currently under hospital care at this time. Embassy Health Unit treated 16 personnel for minor injuries in the Embassy Health Unit in the aftermath of the bombing and will be conducting follow-up checks today.

¶3. (C) Embassy personnel have withdrawn from the task of covering all hospitals to identify casualties. GOP has begun the rescue/clean up efforts at the bomb site, with Army Rangers limiting access to the scene. Ambassador reported on her offer to the MOI of full USG support. LEGATT advised an FBI/DS team is available subject to a request by the GOP to travel to Islamabad to assist in the forensic investigation.

¶4. (S/NF) Based on the information available, the EAC decided on the following course of actions:

¶A. All visits to Islamabad and throughout Pakistan will be scrutinized and only Mission-essential will be granted

country clearance. Many TDY visits for the coming week have already been postponed.

¶B. Embassy will work with the Department to arrange immediate delivery of pre-fabricated housing units for assembly on Chancery compound to support very limited TDY staff and visitor requirements. Post is not considering moving employees from off-Chancery housing at this time; the reality is the destruction of the Marriot has cut the number of available rooms for visitors in half.

¶C. RSO will re-assess the security profile of the Serena Hotel, the only other hotel in Islamabad that was approved for TDY visitors. RSO has been in contact with police and hotel security management concerning implementing additional security measures there. The Pearl Continental Hotel in Rawalpindi is also being reassessed in order to identify acceptable alternatives until the pre-fab housing is operational.

¶D. Lockdown status for Embassy personnel is being relaxed to permit home-to-office and other essential travel. Personnel have been advised that limited movement to take care of essential shopping needs is approved since some people lost all clothes and personal items in the blast/fire, but no "recreational" outings are allowed. We are restricting movement to the Serena Hotel and prohibiting patronage of the Serena's two restaurants until further notice. (Note: These were the last two restaurants approved by RSO outside the Diplomatic Enclave. End note.) GOP has augmented security patrols in our housing sectors and routine transportation movements will be allowed for Monday. The Embassy, and all consulates in Pakistan, will be open for normal business on Monday. All staff will report as usual but Consulate Peshawar will allow staff to work from their homes (septel).

¶E. RSO is attempting to communicate with key private sector contacts in the aftermath of the bombing. While no formal OSAC Country Council exists, RSO and FCS are establishing lines of communication with this segment of Americans in Islamabad and throughout Pakistan.

¶5. (C) Ambassador reminded EAC of her standing guidance on compassionate curtailments; EAC did not know of any such requests at this time. Embassy members will continue to work with GOP counterparts in search and rescue efforts for our two missing personnel and to provide any assistance the GOP requests.

¶6. (U) Further information will be reported as it develops.
PATTERSON